

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1 1. (Previously Presented) A method of accounting for services provided over
2 a packet-based network, comprising:
3 determining a type of service used over the network;
4 monitoring usage of the service; and
5 collecting accounting information based on the type of service and usage
6 of the service, wherein collecting the accounting information includes compiling the
7 accounting information into an accounting unit,
8 wherein the accounting unit has a first entry to indicate a quality of service
9 provided over the packet-based network, and a second entry to indicate mobility
10 management.

1 2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the determining,
2 monitoring, and collecting are performed in a first entity, the method further comprising
3 transmitting, from the first entity, the accounting unit to at least another entity.

1 3. (Original) The method of claim 2, further comprising assigning an
2 identifier with the collected accounting information that is common between the first
3 entity and the at least one other entity.

1 4. (Cancelled)

1 5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising using
2 an accounting unit having a common format for convenient exchange between entities.

1 6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[4]]1, further comprising
2 using an accounting unit including a traffic matrix segment.

1 7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein determining the
2 type of service includes determining one of a plurality of service types, wherein
3 collecting the accounting information comprises collecting an additional entry assigned a
4 value to indicate a type of service.

1 8. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein determining one of the
2 plurality of service types include determining one of real-time communications and at
3 least another type of service.

1 9. -15. (Cancelled)

1 16. (Previously Presented) A method of accounting for services provided over
2 a packet-based network, comprising:
3 communicating a unit of accounting information carrying information
4 regarding usage of the packet-based network by a terminal, the unit of accounting
5 information having a predetermined format capable of being exchanged between a
6 plurality of entities; and
7 assigning values to entries in the unit of accounting information based on
8 usage, the unit including a first entry indicating a quality of service provided over the
9 packet-based network and a second entry containing a network access identifier of the
10 terminal to uniquely identify the terminal.

1 17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16, wherein assigning values
2 to entries further includes assigning a value to an additional entry indicating a type of
3 service.

1 18. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein assigning values to entries
2 further includes assigning values to additional entries including entries indicating usage
3 of a radio interface, indicating usage of a visited network, indicating usage of mobility
4 management, and indicating an amount of data transferred.

1 19. (Original) The method of claim 18, wherein assigning values to entries
2 further includes assigning a value to an additional entry indicating erroneous termination
3 of communications.

1 20. (Original) The method of claim 19, wherein assigning values to entries
2 further includes assigning a value to an additional entry indicating an amount of
3 discarded data.

1 21. (Previously Presented) A system capable of being coupled to a packet-
2 based network, comprising:
3 a controller to collect usage information based on a service used by a node
4 on the packet-based network; and
5 a storage device containing an accounting unit in which the usage
6 information is collected, the accounting unit including a plurality of entries to identify
7 usage elements from which accounting may be derived, the entries comprising a first
8 entry to indicate a quality of service used by the node and a second entry to indicate
9 usage of mobility management.

1 22. (Original) The system of claim 21, wherein the entries of the accounting
2 unit include an entry identifying a type of service used.

1 23. (Cancelled)

1 24. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 21, wherein the entries of the
2 accounting unit further comprise entries indicating elements used by a mobile node,
3 including mobility management, usage of a radio interface, and usage of a visited
4 network.

1 25. (Original) The system of claim 21, wherein the accounting unit includes a
2 traffic matrix segment.

1 26. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 21, wherein the accounting
2 unit is according to a predetermined format, the controller to further communicate the
3 accounting unit to another entity.

1 27. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 21, further comprising:
2 an accounting processor adapted to receive accounting units from at least
3 one other entity.

1 28. (Original) The system of claim 27, wherein the accounting processor is
2 adapted to generate billing to a subscriber based on one or more of the accounting units.

1 29. (Previously Presented) An article including one or more machine-readable
2 storage media containing instructions for accounting for services used on a packet-based
3 data network, the instructions when executed causing a system to:
4 determine usage elements associated with each service, the usage elements
5 including a service type, amount of data communicated, and mobility management; and
6 collect accounting units each including entries identifying the usage
7 elements.

1 30. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 29, wherein the one or more
2 storage media contain instructions that when executed cause the system to further
3 communicate the accounting units to another entity.

1 31. (Previously Presented) A computer data signal embodied in a carrier wave
2 comprising one or more code segments containing instructions for accounting for
3 services used on a packet-based data network, the instructions when executed causing a
4 system to:
5 receive accounting units from at least another entity, each accounting unit
6 containing a first entry identifying a quality of service, a second entry identifying a
7 terminal the accounting unit is associated with, and a third entry indicating usage of
8 mobility management;

9 determine, from each accounting unit, usage of a service on the packet-
10 based network; and
11 charge at least a subscriber for the usage of the service.

1 32. (Previously Presented) A storage device for storing data for access by one
2 or more software routines being executed on a system, comprising:
3 a data structure stored in the storage device and including a plurality of
4 entries, the entries including a first field indicating a quality of service provided over a
5 packet-based network, a second field indicating if the service is chargeable, and a third
6 field including an identifier identifying a node using the service.

1 33. (Original) The storage device of claim 32, wherein the data structure
2 further includes a field indicating if mobility management is provided for the node, a
3 field indicating usage of a radio interface by the node, and a field indicating usage of a
4 visited network by the node.

1 34. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, wherein assigning a value
2 to the additional entry comprises assigning one of plural values corresponding to plural
3 types of service.

1 35. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 34, wherein the plural types
2 of service comprise real-time communications and at least another type of service.

1 36. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16, wherein communicating
2 the unit of accounting information comprises communicating a traffic matrix segment
3 having a header and plural rows, each row containing accounting information associated
4 with a session having a given time duration.

1 37. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16, wherein assigning values
2 to entries further includes assigning values to additional entries containing source and
3 destination network addresses.

1 38. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16, further comprising
2 monitoring usage of services on the packet-based network with an accounting meter,
3 wherein assigning values to the entries is performed by the accounting meter.

1 39. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 29, wherein the usage elements
2 further comprise quality of service, usage of air interface, and a network access identifier.